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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,186	02/09/2004	Kia Silverbrook	MTB25US	8433
24011 7590 04/16/2007 SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD 393 DARLING STREET BALMAIN, 2041 AUSTRALIA			EXAMINER FIDLER, SHELBY LEE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2861	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/16/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/773,186	SILVERBROOK, KIA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shelby Fidler	2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,8,10-19,21,24,25,27,29-38,40,42-44 and 46-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,8,10-19,21,24,25,27,29-38,40,42-44 and 46-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/7/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Responsive Office Action

This Office Action is responsive to amendments remarks filed 3/1/2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 11-13, 15, 19, 21, 24, 30, 31-32, 34, 38, 40, 42, 47-48, and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell et al. (US 4870433) in view of Kubby (US 5851412).

Regarding claims 1, 19, and 38:

Campbell et al. disclose an inkjet printhead comprising:

a plurality of nozzles (nozzles 19; col. 3, lines 1-3 and col. 2, lines 17-21);

a bubble forming chamber (print cavity 21) corresponding to each of the nozzles respectively (Fig. 2);

at least one heater element (resistive heater elements 12) disposed in each of the bubble forming chambers respectively (Fig. 2), the heater element configured for thermal contact with a bubble forming liquid (ink; col. 3, lines 8-11); such that

heating the heater element to a temperature above the boiling point of the bubble forming liquid forms a gas bubble (bubble 22) that causes the ejection of a drop of an ejectable liquid through the nozzle corresponding to that heater element (col. 3, lines 8-13); wherein, the heater element has at least one bubble nucleation section (elongated portions 31),

wherein each bubble nucleation section (31) has a smaller cross section than the remainder of the heater element (Figs. 2 and 3; as compared to end portions 32);

supplying the nozzle with a replacement volume of the ejectable liquid equivalent to the ejected drop (obvious to the cyclic ejections of col. 3, lines 3-7 and col. 4, lines 64-68); and

wherein the gas bubble collapses to a point of collapse that is spaced from any solid surface of the heater elements (col. 3, lines 60-64).

Campbell et al. do not expressly disclose that the heater element is in the form of a cantilever beam having a supported end and a free end.

However, Kubby discloses suspending a heater element (suspended portion 18) using any number of legs (legs 19).

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a heater element suspended by a single leg, so as to form a cantilever beam having a supported end and a free end, such as suggested by Kubby, into the invention of Campbell et al. The motivation for doing so, as taught by Kubby, is to increase the heat transfer efficiency of the heating element (col. 5, lines 33-40).

Regarding claims 3, 21, and 40:

Campbell et al. also disclose that the bubble forming chamber (21) has a circular cross section (Fig. 1) and the heater element (12) has sections that are concentric with the circular cross section (Figs. 1-3).

Art Unit: 2861

Regarding claims 5, 24, and 42:

Campbell et al. also disclose that the bubble forming liquid and the ejectable liquid are of a common body of liquid (col. 3, lines 8-13).

Regarding claims 11, 30, and 47:

Campbell et al. also disclose that the heater elements (12) have two opposite sides (e.g. the sides relating to the top of Fig. 3 and bottom of Fig. 3) and are configured such that the gas bubble (22) formed by the heater elements are formed at both of the sides of the heater elements (col. 3, lines 50-60).

Regarding claims 12, 31, and 48:

Campbell et al. also disclose that the bubble (20), which each heater element is configured to form, is collapsible and has a point of collapse, and wherein each heater element is configured such that the point of collapse of a bubble formed thereby is spaced from that heater element (col. 3, lines 60-66).

Regarding claims 13, 32, and 50:

Campbell et al. also disclose a structure (substrate 18), wherein the nozzles (19) are incorporated on the structure (col. 3, lines 1-3 and Fig. 2).

Examiner notes the limitation that the structure is formed by chemical vapor deposition. However, this limitation pertains only to the method of forming a device, which is not germane to the patentability of the device itself; therefore, Examiner has not given this limitation patentable weight.

Regarding claims 15, 34, and 51:

Campbell et al. also disclose a plurality of bubble forming chambers (21) each corresponding to a respective nozzle (Fig. 2); and

Art Unit: 2861

Kubby discloses a plurality of the heater elements (doped regions 20a and 20b) disposed within a bubble forming chamber (Figs. 4 and 5), the heater elements within each chamber being formed on different respective layers to one another (Fig. 4).

Therefore, at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a plurality of heater elements disposed on different layers, such as taught by Kubby, into the invention of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby. The motivation for doing so, as taught by Kubby, is to be able to emit a plurality of droplets of distinct sizes (col. 5, lines 11-21).

Claims 6, 8, 10, 14, 25, 27, 29, 33, 43, 44, 46, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Silverbrook (US 6019457).

Regarding claims 6, 25, and 43:

Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby disclose all claimed limitations except that the printhead is a page-width printhead.

However, Silverbrook discloses a pagewidth printhead (head 200) configured to print on a page (col. 6, lines 7-12).

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a pagewidth printhead into the invention of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby. The motivation for doing so, as taught by Silverbrook, is to be able to print on the width of an A4 page (col. 6, lines 7-12).

Regarding claims 8, 27, and 44:

Art Unit: 2861

Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby disclose all claimed limitations except that the heater elements are configured such that an actuation energy of less than 500 nJ is required to heat the heater element sufficiently to form the bubble in the bubble forming liquid, thereby causing an ejection of the drop.

However, Silverbrook discloses heater elements (heaters 120; Fig. 10) that are configured such that an actuation energy of less than 500 nJ is required to heat the heater element sufficiently to form the bubble in the bubble forming liquid, thereby causing an ejection of the drop (200 nJ; col. 19, lines 8-9).

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize heater elements that require less than 500 nJ to heat the heater element to eject a drop into the invention of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby. The motivation for doing so, as taught by Silverbrook, is to allow power dissipation to be reduced without affecting print speed (col. 19, lines 9-10).

Regarding claims 10, 29, and 46:

Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby disclose all claimed limitations except that the substrate surface has an areal density of nozzles exceeding 10,000 nozzles per square centimeter of substrate surface.

However, Silverbrook discloses a substrate surface wherein the areal density of the nozzles relative to the substrate surface exceeds 10,000 nozzles per square centimeter of substrate surface (using the reference measurement of Figure 43 and counting the individual nozzles disclosed in the "part of cyan" section of Figure 43, calculations show that the density

exceeds 10,000 per square centimeter: $\frac{20 \text{ nozzles}}{0.0016384 \text{ cm}^2} = 12207 \frac{\text{nozzles}}{\text{cm}^2}$).

Art Unit: 2861

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a printhead substrate surface with a nozzle density of 10,000 nozzles per square centimeter into the invention of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby. The motivation for doing so, as taught by Silverbrook, is to provide four nozzles per pixel which would give up to 16 drops per pixel (co. 16, lines 60-62).

Regarding claims 14, 33, and 49:

Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby disclose all the limitations of claim 1, and Campbell et al. also disclose a structure (substrate 18), wherein the nozzles (19) are incorporated on the structure (col. 3, lines 1-3 and Fig. 2).

Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby do not expressly disclose that the structure is less than 10 microns thick.

However, Silverbrook discloses a structure (overcoat 142) that is less than 10 microns thick (col. 9, lines 8-10), wherein nozzles are incorporated on the structure (Fig. 11).

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a structure incorporating nozzles that is less than 10 microns thick into the invention of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby. The motivation for doing so, as taught by Silverbrook, is to provide increased levels of protection against the air (col. 9, lines 5-8).

Claims 16, 18, 35, 37, 52, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Anagnostopoulos et al. (US 6502925 B2).

Regarding claims 16, 35, and 52:

Art Unit: 2861

Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby disclose all claimed limitations except that the heater elements are formed of solid material more than 90% of which is constituted by at least one periodic element having an atomic number below 50.

However, Anagnostopoulos et al., disclose heater elements formed of solid material more than 90% of which is constituted by at least one periodic element, having an atomic number below 50 (Ti and TiN, col. 10, lines 31-33).

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize heater elements formed of Titanium and Titanium Nitride into the invention of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby. The motivation for doing so, as taught by Chan (US 5710070), is that the titanium/titanium nitride resistive layer provides good electro-migration performance to sustain high current density at high temperatures (col.3, lines 30-33).

Regarding claims 18, 37, and 54:

Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby disclose all claimed limitations except that the heater elements are covered by a conformal protective coating, the coating of each heater element applied substantially to all sides of the heater element such that the coating is seamless.

However, Anagnostopoulos et al. disclose heater elements covered by a conformal protective coating (passivation layer), the coating of each heater element applied substantially to all sides of the heater element such that the coating is seamless (col. 10, lines 33-39 in combination with Figure 5).

Examiner notes the additional limitation that the protective coating is applied simultaneously. However, this limitation pertains only to the method of forming a device, which is not germane to the patentability of the device itself; therefore, Examiner has not given this limitation patentable weight.

Art Unit: 2861

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a protective coating applied substantially to all sides of the heater element into the invention of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby. The motivation for doing so, as taught by Anagnostopoulos et al., is to protect the heater from the corrosive action of the ink (col. 10, lines 35-37).

Claims 17, 36, and 53 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of DeMoor et al.

Regarding claims 17, 36, and 53:

Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby disclose all claimed limitations except that the heater elements are configured for a mass of less than 10 nanograms to be heated to cause ejection of a drop.

However, DeMoor et al. disclose heater elements configured for a mass of less than 10 nanograms to be heated (page 285, Fabrication: Ti thickness = 5nm; TiN thickness = 30nm; heater width = 2000 μ m; heater width = 0.4 μ m. Therefore, the volume of Ti within the heater is 4×10^{-12} cm³, and the volume of TiN within the heater is 2.4×10^{-11} cm³. Using the known densities of Ti = 4.54 g/cm³ and TiN = 5.22 g/cm³, the heater element has an entire mass of 0.14344 ng).

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize De Moor et al.'s heater element mass into the invention of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby. The motivation for doing so, as taught by De Moor et al., is that these types of heaters show excellent resistivity uniformity and a low TCR value (page 293, Conclusions).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 19, and 38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the above combination of Campbell et al. as modified by Kubby, which suggests suspending the heater elements so as to form a cantilever beam having a supported end and a free end.

Art Unit: 2861

Communication with the USPTO

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shelby Fidler whose telephone number is (571) 272-8455. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Shelby L. Fidler 4/10/07

Shelby Fidler
Patent Examiner
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